

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following:

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/204,836, filed May 17, 2000 and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/280,040, filed March 30, 2001.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10 with the following:

In another embodiment, the application is directed to an inflatable system comprising a substantially fluid impermeable bladder and a fluid controller comprising a pump in fluid communication with the bladder. The fluid controller further comprises a first locking mechanism and an adjustment device including a second locking mechanism sized and adapted to reversibly mate with the first locking mechanism.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23 with the following:

Fluid controller 80 may be constructed in any manner and using any materials that allow fluid controller 80 to control the flow of fluid into and/or out of bladder 20. In one embodiment, fluid controller 80 includes a pump 81 that may be constructed in any manner and using any materials that allow it to inflate and/or deflate bladder 20. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the pump 81 may be a conventional fluid pump including a motor 84 that drives an impeller 86 moving air into, or out of, bladder 20. Where the pump includes motor 84, motor 84 may be powered by electricity. Electricity may be provided by a connection to standard house current or, where portability is desired, by batteries. Other types of pumps, such as diaphragm pumps, may also be used so long as they allow the pump to inflate bladder 20 to within a desired pressure range, which may include a pressure range that can be adjusted by, for example, another fluid pumping device, such as someone blowing into a conventional valve stem within the bladder, a foot pump, and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following:

Fluid controller 80 may direct fluid flow in any manner consistent with its construction. For example, where fluid controller 80 includes a pump 81 with motor 84 and impeller 86, impeller 86 may draw fluid into, or out of, bladder 20 through a conduit 88. In some embodiments, conduit 88 may be positioned between motor 84 and a housing 90, as an

annulus. For example, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5, fluid controller 80 includes a housing 90 that surrounds the inner workings of the pump. Housing 90 may also serve, for example, to protect the inner workings of the pump and to provide a connection between fluid controller 80 and bladder 20.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 with the following:

Fluid controller 80 may include structure to facilitate connection to bladder 20. for example, fluid controller 80 may include a portion adapted to connect to bladder 20, such as a flange 82 as illustrated in FIGS. 3-5. Flange 82 may, for example, extend from housing 90 or may be a separate component connected to housing 90. As best seen in FIG. 5, flange 82 may include additional structure, such as a fluid impermeable wall 83, that may allow it to perform other functions in fluid controller ~~400~~ 80 in addition to providing a connection point for bladder 20. Where flange 82 is connected to housing 90, it may be connected anywhere and in any manner that allows it to fluid tightly connect fluid controller 80 and bladder 20. For example, where flange 82 includes a fluid impermeable wall 83, flange 82 may be connected to housing 90 at or near outlet 120 from housing 90.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 with the following:

Flange 82 may be constructed of any material that allows it to durably and fluid tightly connect fluid controller 80 to bladder 20. For example, flange 82 may be constructed ~~o~~ of a material that is more flexible than housing 90, but less flexible than bladder 20, bridging the flexibility gap between the two structures and resulting in a durable seal that may be performed, for example, by heat sealing. One example suitable material of construction of flange 82 is PVC. The thickness of flange 82 may also affect its flexibility, with thinner flanges generally being more flexible than thicker flanges. Thus the thickness of flange 82 may be selected to provide a desired flexibility with a given material.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 with the following:

Claims